THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A contract for upgradation of MiG-29 aircraft was signed with M/s RAC-'MiG', Russia on 7th March, 2008 on single vendor basis. The contract for SPYDER Low Level Quick Reaction Missile system was signed with M/s RAFAEL, Israel on 1st September, 2008 after multi-vendor global tendering.

(b) Transfer of Technology for series upgrade of MiG-29 aircraft and their Repair and Overhaul (ROH) is part of the upgrade contract. However, transfer of technology was not considered viable in case of Low Level Quick Reaction Missile system.

(c) An expenditure of 964.082 Million USD (approximately Rs. 3875.61 Crores) would be towards upgrade of MiG-29 aircraft, and USD 260,050,000 (approximately Rs. 1137.71875 crores) for purchase of Low Level Quick Reaction Missile systems.

Outsourcing in Defence Sector

1728. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has appointed a Committee to identify the areas which could be outsourced in Defence Sector;

(b) if so, the areas recommended for being outsourced;

(c) whether recommended outsourcing involve substitution of perennial nature of job through contract labour; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of unmanned AK-47

†1729. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the project of Government polytechnic Institute, Firozpur for the development of unmanned AK-47; and

(b) if so, the plans for commercial utilisation after examining and encouraging it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Contract Labour in MES

1730. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of permanent workers in Military Engineering Service (MES);

(b) the number of existing vacancies;

(c) the action taken by Government to fill up the vacancies;

(d) the number of workers engaged through contract during the last three years; and

(e) the total payment made for labour contract during the last three years, year-wise in MES?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The number of permanent workers in Military Engineer Service (MES) is 1,28,684.

(b) The number of existing vacancies in MES is 52209.

(c) The vacancies are filled up as per Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP).

(d) and (e) The number of workers engaged through contract and payment made for labour contract during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Workers engaged	Payment made
2005-2006	5553	Rs. 24,71,75,862/-
2006-2007	6441	Rs. 30,91,40,468/-
2007-2008	7142	Rs. 39,55,96,459/-

Purchase of more arms from USA than Russia

1731. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is purchasing more arms from USA than Russia as reported in newspapers recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for shifting away from traditional and trusted ally of Russia?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir. Procurement of defence equipment is made by the Government from various indigenous as well as foreign sources, including Russia and the USA, to meet the approved requirements of the Armed Forces, for adequate defence preparedness.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in military tie ups and imports from Russia

1732. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had talks with the Russian Defence Minister Mr. Anatoly Serdyukov in a bid to resolve problems dogging ongoing mega military projects;